SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year — March 20, 1972

No 139

Address: HT 1217 B-SVN
c/o DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and SVN Embassies, Information Bureaux in foreign countries

2 - JUN 14 1972
Copy .....

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Hold Higher the Banner "Determination to Fight and Defeat the US Aggressors"

ONE of the most dramatic moves of Nixon at present is to "peddle his peace ware." Never has he dwelt on "humanism," "charity and fraternity," "peace" and "negotiation" with such insistence as today. He has also spoken of the "future of our children," of "removing the wall separating nations," of "building a new world order in which nations and peoples can live together in peace and respecting one another." In such honeyed words that one can hardly believe they are his own, he said that "the US supports individual freedom and social progress for all the peoples of the world, free of outside pressure or intervention," that it does not "seek hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region" and it wishes to "make contributions to the relaxation of tension in Asia and the world."

Has Nixon the hawk become a dove? Or has the nature of US imperialism changed for the better? That is of course not the opinion of the majority of the world's peoples. The spirited anti-US demonstrations and meetings now popping around the world in preparation for the anti-war campaign in the US are the relevant answer. Better still the hard-boiled truth in Viet Nam and Indochina testifies that the nature of US imperialism has not changed a jot and that Nixon remains what he was: that he is always the most loyal and zealous agent of the US monopolies, the bellicose reactionary and the arch enemy of the national liberation movement and of world progress. Under his administration, US imperialism has clearly shown its cloven hoof as a die-hard, crafty and cruel aggressor, an international gendarme and the most fiendish foe of mankind.

Nixon's present exertion for a phoney peace is a facet of his doctrine. With this trick of his, he wants to build a "bridgehead" with the socialist countries in order to play off this one against that one under his scheme to drive a wedge into the socialist camp and weaken the mainstay of the national liberation movement in the world. With his trick, he wants to cover up his design to go on with the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, to pursue the "Vietnamization" experiment, the crux of the Nixon doctrine in Asia. With his trick, he hopes to be able to fool the American people, to dam up the mounting anti-war movement and to tide over the great difficulties confronting the US at home and abroad. With his trick, he wants to secure a greater number of votes in next fall's presidential elections.

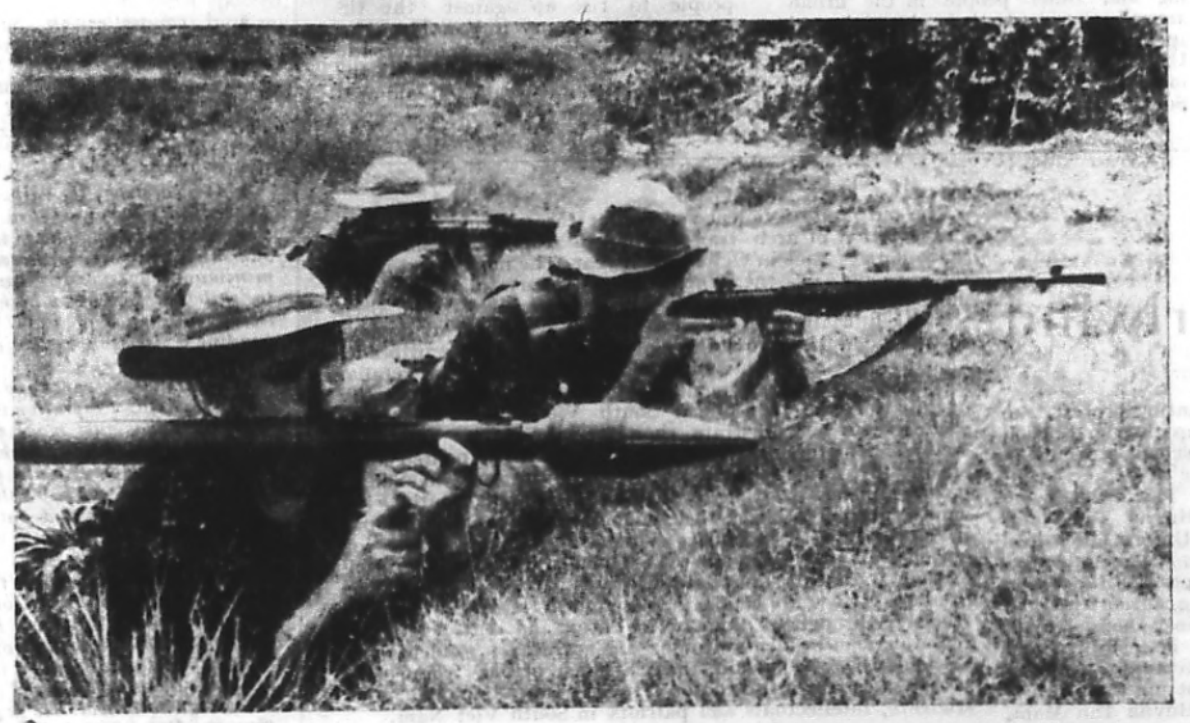
But except a handful of reactionaries at his beck and call, few people are dupes of Nixon. The world's peoples are poohpoohing him. A wave of protest is rising in many countries, demanding that he end "Vietnamization", pull out all the US troops and let the Vietnamese and Indochinese peoples settle their own affairs themselves without outside interference.

This high feeling is quite understandable; so is the nature of that cruel and crafty agent of the American monopolies, the killer of children in Indochina. These victims of CBU, napalm, phosphorous bombs are casualties of the monstrous crimes committed by Nixon against the younger generations in Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos. Nobody is taken in by his gimmick and crocodile tears.

While trying to peddle his peace ware, Nixon has been frenziedly stepping up the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, especially the air war. He has sent more B.52 strategic bombers to Thailand and Guam and the aircraft-carrier Kitty Hawk to reinforce his fleet in the Tonkin Gulf. Is that a "basis" for negotiations? Meanwhile hostilities are raging in Viet Nam and Indochina. The Saigon quislings are doing their best to carry out "pacification" operations, mount terrorist raids, and impress soldiers for US "Vietnamization."

"Vietnamization" is only a method of waging the US aggressive war with Saigon troops and American weapons. The reinforcement of the US air force in this part of the world aims precisely at helping the client armies carry out the US aggressive plan. That is why the phased pullouts of GIs fall short of ending the war, solving the POW problem and putting an end to US commitments in Southeast Asia. On the contrary, these withdrawals are to implement "Vietnamization." The final goal of the US is to maintain a US residual force as core for the quisling army, to prolong US military occupation and, if need be, to have a basis for an eventual reinforcement of US troops in order to defend the neo-colonialist regime. These withdrawals are similar to dimming momentarily a lamp to prevent public opinion from seeing the truth, to trim it again in case of need.

(Continued page 4)



The scare of US tanks: these young South Vietnamese Liberation gunners.

FLARE-UP OF ATTACKS ON "PACIFICATION" IN MEKONG DELTA

GUERILLA warfare which continued unabated throughout the past year in the Mekong Delta has applied heavy pressure on the US-Saigon "pacification» program. Against the people's war and in realization of their "pacification" of key areas, the Americans and their agents have since the beginning of this year massed troops and launched two large-scale operations in a number of populated areas in this sector. Two regiments of the Saigon 9th Div. have been committed to the U Minh region to reinforce the Saigon 21st Div. in a decisive and sustained action. Many units of the Saigon 7th Div., together with many "security forces" groups, have been thrown into a "pacification" raid on the key area of Ben Tre. Both drives, however, have been foiled. The armed forces and people of U Minh have succeeded not only in blunting and frustrating the enemy many-pronged attack but also in bringing the fighting deep into the bases of the 32nd Regiment, 21st. Div., in Song Doc where they completely wiped out 3 companies and hit hard at its HQ and fire base. The 14th and 16th regiments, 9th Div., have also been battered during their "support-pacification" operations with 5 of their companies written off and virtually all battalions decimated. Under the strong fire of the armed forces and people of U Minh, the enemy has had to abandon many positions in Rach Moi and Hon Da Bac.

The enemy has met with a similar disaster in Ben Tre. Guerillas and regional troops of this province have knocked out 500 men of the Saigon 7th Division and at the same time mounted attacks on the 20th, 72nd and 299th "security forces" groups, forcing them to call off their operation and fall back to Go Cong,

Fired by the new successes, the armed forces and people in the Mekong Delta have stepped up guerilla warfare, which has worsened the US-Saigon regime's predicament. A Saigon military spokesman has sounded this warning: "The Viet Congs have ample capability to mount major attacks in any place in the Mekong Delta."

All the 3 Saigon army divisions operating in this delta plain have had to spread thin their forces over a vast theatre, only to remain in constant fear of Liberation assaults that may come at any moment. Their ability to counter-attack and pacification support activities have been visibly curtailed. In the first 2 months of this year, the armed forces and people in the delta plain of Nam Bo encircled, erased, or forced the abandonment of, many outposts held by security forces and civil guards. Preliminary reports show that in the first 56 days of this year alone, 64 enemy posts were levelled and hundreds of others suffered serious losses. In one region of Ca Mau province, the PLAF swept clean all enemy positions from a stretch of land tens of miles long. One village formerly dotted with such fortifications has been completely liberated. In Mo Cay district, Ben Tre province, in only 10 days ending Jan. 14, guerillas and regional troops destroyed or forced the evacuation of 8 outposts and freed thousands of inhabitants from enemy control. Of late, destructive actions against military posts manned by security forces and civil guards have increased across the delta plain of Nam Bo. A top American "pacification" adviser has admitted that it only 6 days (Feb. 19-24) at least 10 positions defended by government troops in the Mekong Delta had been overrun by the Viet Cong. Such happenings have become common occurrences. There is a sudden jump in the casualties of the South Vietnamese troops in this area (*UPI* and *AFP*, Feb. 26).

Apart from joint actions with the Liberation armed forces, the people in the countryside have stepped up attacks or pressure on adverse posts with political protests as well as agitation work among the enemy troops.

Under the impact of this popular upsurge, the enemy coercive forces have been disintegrating. In a one-month period, people in Western Nam Bo shattered the enemy's grip on 281 "strategic hamlets". In Tra Vinh province, in the 10 first days of February, 40 such hamlets were pulled down or breached open. The armed forces and people in the Mekong Delta have set on foot a campaign for the propagation of the 10-point policy and the appeal to Saigon officers and men and civil servants from the NFL and the RSVN PRG. This has deeply shaken the morale of the military. Desertions and defections have become frequent. In some areas, the soldiers have staged collective anti-war protests, liquidated die-hards and then crossed over to the revolution side with their weapons. In Ben Tre, in the first half of January, 9 security force companies disobeyed combat orders. In Ca Mau town, in one day 2 battalions of the 33rd Regiment staged anti-war actions and 30 of their men left their ranks in a body and returned to their families. In various provinces more and more security forces and civil guards elect to stay put or opt for "neutrality." Developments are taking a turn very favourable to the South Viet Nam revolution.

In their "Vietnamization," the US-Saigon rule attaches to the rich and densely populated delta plain of Nam Bo a great military, political and economic importance. Hence its stubborn attempts to secure a foothold there. For several years now, "pacification" experts have moved into this vast region, planted posts in villages and hamlets and organized a network of "Phoenix" and "Swan" secret agents. There the Americans have deployed 3 entire divisions of Saigon regulars and used a huge tonnage of bombs and shells in incessant sweeps against guerillas. Military activities have been stepped up alongside political and economic ploys, in a bid to break the will of the local people and bring them to their knees. Priority in terms of efforts and sophisticated means has been given to the program with a view to "pacifying" the region in a short period of time so as to provide security belts for US nerve organs in Saigon and a reserve of man-power for the prolongation and expansion of the war. Nevertheless, through this all-round and grim test of strength that began in late 1968, the armed forces and people of the delta plain of Nam Bo have realized ever more clearly the wickedness of the enemy, and have strengthened their unity and their determination to resist "pacification." To them counter-pacification has become a way of life. Their armed forces keep growing and their combat efficiency has increased substantially. Tempered in the fighting, the armed forces and people in the delta plain of Nam Bo have obviously made great advances in their new wave of attacks on the US-Saigon "pacification program" in the first 2 months of this year.

An old Lady from Saigon

THE cops' alert sounding was heard just when Tan left police station A. All street corners were cordoned off by truculent Saigon field policemen and American MPs, their pistols at the ready.

She stole a look at her pursuers, wormed her way among the crowd and disappeared into the busy market. Shouts of "Stop the Viet Cong girl!" resounded after her.

Aware that she had been spotted, she thought to herself: "You may capture me but not my arm, not at any cost." She huddled in a corner of the market wall, took off her coat and gazed intently at an old gruel vendor sitting nearby as if to say: "I am a city self-defence girl, help me!"

The old woman gave a knowing wink and Tan drew near her and dropped her weapon into the steaming gruel. The old vendor, quietly chewing her betel quid, put the lid back on the pot.

Tan had hardly made a few steps when she was stopped by the thugs who summoned her to surrender her gun: "We'll blow out your brains if you don't comply," they threatened her.

She defiantly looked each of them in the face.

"Shame on you who bully a young girl right in front of a crowd," the gruel vendor came up and said. "She's been doing her shopping. Why are you brutalizing her?"

The search was unsuccessful and the policemen said in a disappointed voice: "Don't you poke your nose in. That Viet Cong girl has just killed our deputy-chief who is sprawling in his blood in front of our post over there."

The old woman went back to her stall mumbling to herself: "Heaven know Saigon is infested by liberation fighters. The weakest goes to wall! We only mind our business and know nothing about arms and ammunition!"

Crest-fallen, the Saigon thugs and American policemen strolled off. When Tan returned for her pistol and thanked the old woman, the latter said: "It was a pleasure to do that for you. It wouldn't matter if I was caught. You're still young, you must live on and fight them!"

à la nixon

Erratum

Some *errata* have been found in Nixon's recent statement. Our readers are requested to rectify them:

Instead of: *The US stressed that the peoples of Indochina should be allowed to determine their destiny* **without** *outside intervention ...*

Please read: *The US stressed that the peoples of Indochina should be allowed to determine their destiny* **with US** *outside intervention...*

Instead of: *The US constant primary objective has been* **a negotiated** *solution...*

Please read: *The US constant primary objective has been* **an egotist** *solution...*

Instead of: *The 8-point proposal put forward by the United States on January 27, 1972, represents a* **basis**...

Please read: *The 8-point proposal put forward by the United States on January 27, 1972, represents a* **bait**...

Instead of: *The US envisages the* **ultimate** *withdrawal of all US forces... consistent with the aim of* **self-determination** *for each country of Indochina ...*

Please read: *The US envisages the* **multi-fake** *withdrawal of all US forces... consistent with the aim of* **self-extermination** *for each country of Indochina...*

CHÔNG TRE

FLARE-UP OF ATTACKS ON "PACIFICATION" IN MEKONG DELTA

GUERILLA warfare which continued unabated throughout the past year in the Mekong Delta has applied heavy pressure on the US-Saigon "pacification» program. Against the people's war and in realization of their "pacification" of key areas, the Americans and their agents have since the beginning of this year massed troops and launched two large-scale operations in a number of populated areas in this sector. Two regiments of the Saigon 9th Div. have been committed to the U Minh region to reinforce the Saigon 21st Div. in a decisive and sustained action. Many units of the Saigon 7th Div., together with many "security forces" groups, have been thrown into a "pacification" raid on the key area of Ben Tre. Both drives, however, have been foiled. The armed forces and people of U Minh have succeeded not only in blunting and frustrating the enemy many-pronged attack but also in bringing the fighting deep into the bases of the 32nd Regiment, 21st. Div., in Song Doc where they completely wiped out 3 companies and hit hard at its HQ and fire base. The 14th and 16th regiments, 9th Div., have also been battered during their "support-pacification" operations with 5 of their companies written off and virtually all battalions decimated. Under the strong fire of the armed forces and people of U Minh, the enemy has had to abandon many positions in Rach Moi and Hon Da Bac.

The enemy has met with a similar disaster in Ben Tre. Guerillas and regional troops of this province have knocked out 500 men of the Saigon 7th Division and at the same time mounted attacks on the 20th, 72nd and 299th "security forces" groups, forcing them to call off their operation and fall back to Go Cong,

Fired by the new successes, the armed forces and people in the Mekong Delta have stepped up guerilla warfare, which has worsened the US-Saigon regime's predicament. A Saigon military spokesman has sounded this warning: "The Viet Congs have ample capability to mount major attacks in any place in the Mekong Delta."

All the 3 Saigon army divisions operating in this delta plain have had to spread thin their forces over a vast theatre, only to remain in constant fear of Liberation assaults that may come at any moment. Their ability to counter-attack and pacification support activities have been visibly curtailed. In the first 2 months of this year, the armed forces and people in the delta plain of Nam Bo encircled, erased, or forced the abandonment of, many outposts held by security forces and civil guards. Preliminary reports show that in the first 56 days of this year alone, 64 enemy posts were levelled and hundreds of others suffered serious losses. In one region of Ca Mau province, the PLAF swept clean all enemy positions from a stretch of land tens of miles long. One village formerly dotted with such fortifications has been completely liberated. In Mo Cay district, Ben Tre province, in only 10 days ending Jan. 14, guerillas and regional troops destroyed or forced the evacuation of 8 outposts and freed thousands of inhabitants from enemy control. Of late, destructive actions against military posts manned by security forces and civil guards have increased across the delta plain of Nam Bo. A top American "pacification" adviser has admitted that it only 6 days (Feb. 19-24) at least 10 positions defended by government troops in the Mekong Delta had been overrun by the Viet Cong. Such happenings have become common occurrences. There is a sudden jump in the casualties of the South Vietnamese troops in this area (*UPI* and *AFP*, Feb. 26).

Apart from joint actions with the Liberation armed forces, the people in the countryside have stepped up attacks or pressure on adverse posts with political protests as well as agitation work among the enemy troops.

Under the impact of this popular upsurge, the enemy coercive forces have been disintegrating. In a one-month period, people in Western Nam Bo shattered the enemy's grip on 281 "strategic hamlets". In Tra Vinh province, in the 10 first days of February, 40 such hamlets were pulled down or breached open. The armed forces and people in the Mekong Delta have set on foot a campaign for the propagation of the 10-point policy and the appeal to Saigon officers and men and civil servants from the NFL and the RSVN PRG. This has deeply shaken the morale of the military. Desertions and defections have become frequent. In some areas, the soldiers have staged collective anti-war protests, liquidated die-hards and then crossed over to the revolution side with their weapons. In Ben Tre, in the first half of January, 9 security force companies disobeyed combat orders. In Ca Mau town, in one day 2 battalions of the 33rd Regiment staged anti-war actions and 30 of their men left their ranks in a body and returned to their families. In various provinces more and more security forces and civil guards elect to stay put or opt for "neutrality." Developments are taking a turn very favourable to the South Viet Nam revolution.

In their "Vietnamization," the US-Saigon rule attaches to the rich and densely populated delta plain of Nam Bo a great military, political and economic importance. Hence its stubborn attempts to secure a foothold there. For several years now, "pacification" experts have moved into this vast region, planted posts in villages and hamlets and organized a network of "Phoenix" and "Swan" secret agents. There the Americans have deployed 3 entire divisions of Saigon regulars and used a huge tonnage of bombs and shells in incessant sweeps against guerillas. Military activities have been stepped up alongside political and economic ploys, in a bid to break the will of the local people and bring them to their knees. Priority in terms of efforts and sophisticated means has been given to the program with a view to "pacifying" the region in a short period of time so as to provide security belts for US nerve organs in Saigon and a reserve of man-power for the prolongation and expansion of the war. Nevertheless, through this all-round and grim test of strength that began in late 1968, the armed forces and people of the delta plain of Nam Bo have realized ever more clearly the wickedness of the enemy, and have strengthened their unity and their determination to resist "pacification." To them counter-pacification has become a way of life. Their armed forces keep growing and their combat efficiency has increased substantially. Tempered in the fighting, the armed forces and people in the delta plain of Nam Bo have obviously made great advances in their new wave of attacks on the US-Saigon "pacification program" in the first 2 months of this year.

An old Lady from Saigon

THE cops' alert sounding was heard just when Tan left police station A. All street corners were cordoned off by truculent Saigon field policemen and American MPs, their pistols at the ready.

She stole a look at her pursuers, wormed her way among the crowd and disappeared into the busy market. Shouts of "Stop the Viet Cong girl!" resounded after her.

Aware that she had been spotted, she thought to herself: "You may capture me but not my arm, not at any cost." She huddled in a corner of the market wall, took off her coat and gazed intently at an old gruel vendor sitting nearby as if to say: "I am a city self-defence girl, help me!"

The old woman gave a knowing wink and Tan drew near her and dropped her weapon into the steaming gruel. The old vendor, quietly chewing her betel quid, put the lid back on the pot.

Tan had hardly made a few steps when she was stopped by the thugs who summoned her to surrender her gun: "We'll blow out your brains if you don't comply," they threatened her.

She defiantly looked each of them in the face.

"Shame on you who bully a young girl right in front of a crowd," the gruel vendor came up and said. "She's been doing her shopping. Why are you brutalizing her?"

The search was unsuccessful and the policemen said in a disappointed voice: "Don't you poke your nose in. That Viet Cong girl has just killed our deputy-chief who is sprawling in his blood in front of our post over there."

The old woman went back to her stall mumbling to herself: "Heaven know Saigon is infested by liberation fighters. The weakest goes to wall! We only mind our business and know nothing about arms and ammunition!"

Crest-fallen, the Saigon thugs and American policemen strolled off. When Tan returned for her pistol and thanked the old woman, the latter said: "It was a pleasure to do that for you. It wouldn't matter if I was caught. You're still young, you must live on and fight them!"

à la nixon

Erratum

Some *errata* have been found in Nixon's recent statement. Our readers are requested to rectify them:

Instead of: *The US stressed that the peoples of Indochina should be allowed to determine their destiny* **without** *outside intervention ...*

Please read: *The US stressed that the peoples of Indochina should be allowed to determine their destiny* **with US** *outside intervention...*

Instead of: *The US constant primary objective has been* **a negotiated** *solution...*

Please read: *The US constant primary objective has been* **an egotist** *solution...*

Instead of: *The 8-point proposal put forward by the United States on January 27, 1972, represents a* **basis**...

Please read: *The 8-point proposal put forward by the United States on January 27, 1972, represents a* **bait**...

Instead of: *The US envisages the* **ultimate** *withdrawal of all US forces... consistent with the aim of* **self-determination** *for each country of Indochina ...*

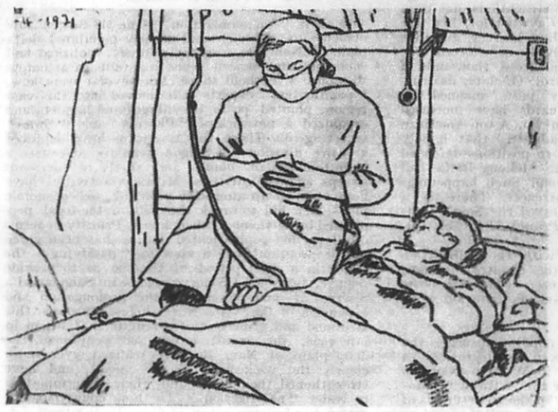
Please read: *The US envisages the* **multi-fake** *withdrawal of all US forces... consistent with the aim of* **self-extermination** *for each country of Indochina...*

CHÔNG TRE

in our liberated areas

o Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho and President Huynh Tan Phat have sent to Kweit leaders a message congratulating them on their nation's 11th Independence Day.

o The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Viet Nam has released a communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Somali and the Government of the Republic of Mali.



o Recently, the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of South Viet Nam has sent the Minister of National Defence of the Soviet Union and the Ministe. of National Defence of the GDR messages of greeting respectively for the 54th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Navy and the 16th anniversary of the National People's Army of the GDR.

o Recently the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Viet Nam has made a statement on the attempt by the US imperialists and their agents to destroy the Angkor temples in Cambodia.

o The South Vietnamese People's Committee of Solidarity with the American People has cabled Angela Davis their best wishes on the occasion of her release on bail by the American authorities.

o In a message to the American women on the occasion of Women's International Day, March 8, and the 1972 Spring Action in the USA, Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Vice-President of the South Vietnamese Liberation Women's Union, termed Nixon's 8-point proposal "a plan of US troops pull-out with conditions attached", "a cunning trick to conceal the pursuance of his "Vietnamization" of the war and serve him in the coming presidential election campaign."

She hoped that "the American women and people will enhance solidarity with the Vietnamese women and people, and make strenuous efforts to press on the Nixon administration to listen to the voice of reason—the voice of Peace."

o The South Viet Nam Liberation Students' Union has addressed greetings to the American students' convention against the US war in Viet Nam and Indochina.

o The South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union summoned the 4th Congress of Agit-Prop Women Cadres to review the work done in 1971 and set the tasks for 1972.

The meeting was attended by Mr Tran Nam Trung, representing the PRG of RSVN, Reverend Thich Thien Hoa, representing the South Viet Nam NFL and many delegates from government offices and mass organizations.

The report read by Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh highlighted the contributions of the South Vietnamese women and affirmed: "From Central Trung Bo to Ca Mau, the women have made a remarkable contribution to foiling the enemy 'Vietnamization' plan. With the three spearheads, they have waged guerilla warfare, fought for the people's rights to live, for democracy, peace, for the pull-out of GIs, for an end to the war, for the protection and development of production, for the building of a new life and against house evictions, land grabbing and herding of the population."

Regarding future tasks, Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh said that the women must "overcome all difficulties, strengthen their unity, cling to their land, step up their offensives and uprisings, broaden their control over the towns and countryside and eventually defeat US 'Vietnamization'."

Li Hi Base Flattened
Within Minutes

LI HI was an enclave of the US and its hirelings on the bordering defence perimeter, 25km south-east of Hue city. It was also a bridgehead for their operations in the Huong Thuy and Phu Loc mountain areas to check PLAF offensives and defend their important Da Nang-Hue communication lines.

It had been defended by a unit of American paratroopers. It was very solidly built with bunkers and concrete fortifications, and surrounded with 7 fences of wire entanglements. Between the two fences a thick network of mine-fields was set up. As all the hills around Li Hi were devastated by B-52 planes, a vast area along strategic highway number 14 could be seen from the base.

After the American troops had withdrawn from Tri-Thien, Li Hi was entrusted to Saigon Battalion 2 (Regiment 54). Since its formation, the latter had received a series of body blows, namely in La Son, Co Tien grotto, on Hill 440 and in Ko Pung mountain area (Phong Dien). Therefore when ordered into the base in the GI's place, its officers and men were scared stiff and dared not go out for round-ups and only wantonly slammed artillery fire on the vicinities.

With the resolve to level Li Hi base and help the people shatter the adverse coercive force and enlarge their assembly area for attacks on the enemy, PLAF men made active preparations for the Tet while waiting for the route.

At nightfall, the liberation fighters, close on one another's heel, moved quickly in the enemy's direction. Despite the shells whizzing past their heads, chopping off branches and sending earth and stones flying, they quickened their pace and soon reached the battlefield. At 1.30 a.m. on February 17, the whole unit slithered in close to the position without being noticed. Right after a green flare was fired into the air, guns of all calibres, and petards exploded from all quarters. The glare lit up every row of houses and gun-nests: the detachment of platoon commander Quynh, like an arrow, charged the enemy battalion HQ from the eastern hiliside. Only a few minutes later, the whole adverse command post was crippled. Unable to contact one another, many adverse troops stubbornly dug in in their bunkers to resist, but the patriotic forces drew near and with petards wiped them out. From the northern, western and southern flanks, detachments of Nam, Dinh, Nhan streamed into the battlefield, swept away 2 infantry company HQ then split into many sprongs and broke into the base. The enemy artillery emplacement, the mortar company and storage area were cut off and isolated.

After a few minutes' fighting, the whole position was engulfed in a sea of fire. The PLAF men erased the HQ of Battalion 2, made short work of 2 infantry companies, a mortar company, a 105 mm-gun platoon, killed or wounded over 200 adverse troops, damaged 8 artillery pieces and mortars and 5 machine-guns, 20 bunkers and 30 barracks. Not until daybreak did the enemy land troops to pick up their mates' bodies but the PLAF artillery shells fell into their formations, causing to them fresh casualties and a 105mm gun destroyed. By noon of February 17, over 200 enemy corpses were still sprawling all over the hill side.

While Battalion 2 was badly mauled in Li Hi, the base of Regiment 54 in La Son and their gun-site in Tan Ba were also hammered at by the PLAF and could not give mutual support. In La Son alone, the liberation fighters' deadly gunfire killed 17 adverse soldiers including a senior officer, wrecked three 105mm cannons, and blotted out several storages and barracks.

The flattening of Li Hi base by the PLAF in Tri-Thien constituted a telling punishing blow at Regiment 54, and a major gain of the South Vietnamese people, and removed an important enclave on the adverse defence line south-east of Hue city.

A Cameraman Charges

CAMERAMAN Sau Dung was running together with a liberation fighter, close on the heels of an American 51-ton tank in a counter-sweep at Bau Bang, Dat Cuoc. The vehicle was now within their reach. Its machine guns, automatic rifles, etc., were spitting fire and the Liberation man had managed to secure a vantage position from which to aim his B.40 at the US tanks. As he kneeled down, Sau Dung did the same thing next to him saying: "Open up for me to shoot you!" The B.40 on the fighter's shoulders shook and let off a bullet. Sau Dung's apparatus succeeded in recording the fervent and inspiring look of the valiant Liberation man. Losing no time, he rushed forward to film the throes of the US monster. Meanwhile enemy planes poured bombs around him. Smoke and explosions, and flying stones everywhere — but nothing could dampen his zeal. His film contributed no less than the anti-tank B.40s to defeat the "armoured car" tactics of the US.

In the same battle, cameraman Doan Quoc Hung on the rear of the "forward unit" and film the debacle of US troops. At first, his request to cover the operation met with a firm refusal from the leaders of the unit: "We can't let you follow us. The battle will be very tough, and we are afraid you won't be safe."

Our First Footages

(Concluded)

But Doan Quoc felt it his duty not to miss this decisive engagement — one in a thousand. He went to see the political commissar of the front, explained in detail his views and asked for help. The officer took him to the command of the battalion and finally he was given satisfaction. The men were then deployed to envelop an American wing constituted by elements of the crack "*Big Red*" Division and of McNamara's pet "Americal" Division. At Da Dot, the company made contact with the enemy. One section of our troops swiftly blocked the enemy's advance in their front while another one was poised to strike at their back, then we opened fire on them. Panic-stricken, the US troops took to flight. Roaring helicopters and jets frantically poured bombs and fired rockets to ease our pressure but to little avail. The *Bayard* camera in Doan Quoc's hands pounded away filming now the A-A unit bagging US aircraft, now the "forward" unit closing in on the fleeing GIs. As the cameraman was running behind some liberation fighters in pursuit of the enemy, he was hit in his fore-arm by a US bullet. His camera was about to slip off, but he quickly pressed it close to him with his other hand. The enemy fire assailed him and he had to lie down and cover with his own body the apparatus and the film he had shot. A second bullet hit him in his side. He felt stiff in a half of his body. He bled abundantly, even through his nose and mouth. His shirt was soaked with blood. "Shall I have to die here," he thought. "I don't care if I have to die, but then what will become of my camera and the films I still have to shoot? What a pity!"

The battlefield rang with explosions and was darkened by columns of smoke dimming the sun-light.

"Forward!" The fighter's shouts were louder than the noise of bombs and bullets.

"Forward!" They were even louder than war clarions. Doan Quoc jumped to his feet all of a sudden, massaged his arms and legs, bandaged his two wounds, then rushed after the fighters. The Yanks were running for their lives. Doan Quoc pressing hard his camera against him shot scene after scene... "Hands up!" The tall, awkward GIs opening wide their mouths and their round eyes, hastily lifted their hands and surrendered to the gun-pointing small liberation armymen: this sequence was recorded in Doan Quoc's film on "The Bau Bang Victory" which stirred the spectators and contributed also to debunk the mythical "might of the USAF."

During the general offensives and uprisings of 1968-1969, many teams of cameramen took part in the fighting. Those led by **Pham Khac** and Nguyen Hoang witnessed the 5-day-and-night assault against the 5th district and produced the "Streets in Flames." Those under the leadership of Mai Phu Quoc, Tran Phung, Tran Cong, etc., were assigned to accompany PLAF units in their deep thrusts into the city and last strongholds of the US aggressors. The team under Pham A, in the 2nd wave of offensives, held their ground amidst a fighting unit for 27 days and nights around the Y-shaped Bridge. But the fierceness of the fight has inflicted some unavoidable losses. Many a time, we have missed exciting scenes of the front, because of our burdens of apparatuses and films. Not a few of our colleagues have laid down their lives. Many other comrades have been wounded in combat.

The extraordinary courageous sacrifices of those comrades always remind us of our duty to march forward — and give us enough strength to do so and to fulfil the glorious tasks assigned us by the Revolution and history and to live up to this title: "Liberation cameramen combatants" of the heroic South.

H. C.

Hold Higher the Determination to Fight and to Defeat...

(Continued from page 1)

Nixon's profession of peace is belied by another fact: he spoke of the "self-determination" of the Indochinese peoples, but immediately after sent his emissary M. Green to Taiwan, Saigon, Phnom Penh and Bangkok to assure his lackeys that the US would continue to keep its military commitment which are the cornerstone of its policy. In Saigon, M. Green made it clear that US Viet Nam policy remained unchanged and that the US would not reduce its commitments to Nguyen Van Thieu.

The Thieu administration is a tool of US neo-colonialism. Serving the "Vietnamization" of the war, it is the stumbling-block of the restoration of peace in Viet Nam. To mislead public opinion, Nixon staged election farces to put on it a democratic and constitutional façade. But this does not prevent it from appearing in its colours as a despicable gang of US stooges, a handful of most reactionary compradore bourgeois and landlords working hand in glove with the US aggressors for their personal interests. The Thieu administration represents nobody. It is a disguised neo-colonialist regime which must be abolished for its most reactionary character. There is no self-determination right for the South Vietnamese so long as they are ground down by a coercive apparatus and anti-popular policies. The South Vietnamese demand that Thieu resign forthwith, that a new administration be set up not to man that neo-colonialist machine but to form in Saigon a new administrative system standing for genuine peace, independence and democracy. That is why, by keeping his commitment to the Nguyen Van Thieu administration Nixon acts utterly counter to the legitimate aspirations and the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese. By confirming these "commitments" he, means to maintain his neo-colonialist rule, to protect this pliant tool for the implementation of "Vietnamization." Therefore the genuine right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese is closely linked to the sacred national rights of the Vietnamese people as a whole. It cannot be regarded as an internal affair of the South Vietnamese so long as the US aggressors continue to rule over South Viet Nam through their dirty neo-colonialism.

The issue is quite clear. Whether Nixon wants to become a dove, then he must hold serious talks on the basis of the 7-point peace proposal of the PRG of the RSVN, put an end to his "Vietnamization," rapidly withdraw all US troops, stop the air war and cease supporting the Nguyen Van Thieu client administration. His 8-point peace plan only aims at prolonging the occupation of South Viet Nam by US troops and maintaining there his neo-colonialist machine. No meaningful talks are possible if he adamantly clings to his 8 points. Worse still, parallel to the stepping up of the war in Viet Nam and Indochina, over these last few days the US delegation to the Paris conference on Viet Nam has been trying to torpedo it by advancing lame pretexts to suspend the regular sessions, thereby landing the talks in a new stalemate.

Obviously, though clobbered on all the battlefields in Indochina and isolated in the world, Nixon is still like a leopard who cannot change his spots. On the one hand he trumpets for an end to the war and for peace, on the other he sets up counter-revolutionary alliances to cope with national liberation movements and the social progressive trends in the world. His deeds do not match his words and his bloody hands contradict his glib tongue. The world peoples condemn him as a cruel, crafty and bellicose president, a neo-fascist and a great swindler.

As early as the middle of this century, the Vietnamese people saw through the dark design of US imperialism. It had coveted Indochina since long, and defrayed over 80 per cent of the cost of the Indochina war for the French colonialists. Already at that time it sought to oust the French and lay hands on Viet Nam, a strategic bridgehead in Southeast Asia, an important link in the chain to contain the socialist camp and throttle the national liberation movement in the world.

The first anti-US demonstration which took place in Saigon twenty-two years ago was a trial of strength between our people and the US imperialists, in which the unity of the townspeople triumphed. Saigon has set to the world an example of splendid indomitableness and heroism.

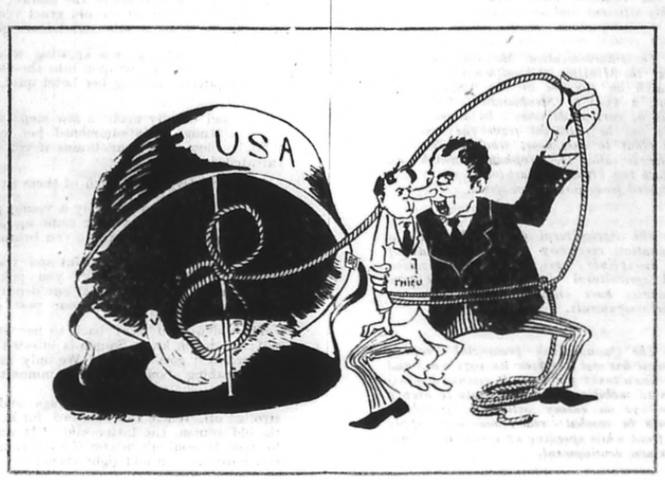
Already at that time, relying on their huge military and economic strength the US imperialists wanted to bully our people. They gave the French aggressors in distress a shot in the arm. On behalf of the whole country, Saigon all in a turmoil resorted to the broad national unity — our absolute forte — and skilfully coordinated all forms of struggle to nip the US scheme in the bud. The March 19, 1950 demonstration in Saigon ushered in an era of resistance to US imperialism, the arch enemy of our time.

The half a million strong rally gave solemn pledge that our people were resolved to fight and defeat all reactionary forces and all aggressive imperialisms wherever they come from.

Though small in size and population, our country has a four-millenium tradition of fighting aggression: we know to successfully pit smaller units against bigger ones and to oppose weaker forces to stronger one. The key to success lies in the close unity of our people in face of the enemy. The **March 19, 1950** *demonstration against US imperialism was the epitome of this national characteristic, of the undaunted spirit of the Saigonese and of the heroism of the Vietnamese revolution, and was a manifestation of the militant solidarity of the revolutionary masses.*

The "Yankee go home" shout uttered by the Saigonese over two decades ago was a declaration to the world that the Vietnamese people were not at all awed by the US imperialists and were resolved to confront them. It made the world alive to the imperialists' vicious and cruel views upon Viet Nam and other small countries in the world. It knocked the bottom out of the US imperialists claim that they were "allies" and exposed their ugly colours as warmongers.

Twenty-two years have passed by since that mammoth protest action against the US. Since then a grim confrontation has been on between the Vietnamese people, the shock force of the national liberation movement, on the one hand, and the US imperialists, the ring leaders of all imperialisms on the other. Obeying President Ho Chi Minh's instructions, we have repelled them step by step. We foiled their scheme to use the Chiang Kai-shek hordes to smother our young republic after World War II. We thwarted their manœuvre to interfere in the Indochinese war ignited by the French imperialists. We frustrated the design of the Eisenhower administration to implant neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam through the agency of the Ngo Dinh Diem client administration. We baffled the special war of the Kennedy administration. We worsted the limited war in South Viet Nam and the air and naval war of the Johnson administration against the North. And we are defeating the Vietnamization of the war of the Nixon administration. From the fifties to the seventies of this century we accepted the challenge of US imperialism, the common enemy of the world revolution. History has recorded that a small nation resolved to resist aggression and supported by the revolutionary people in the world, is sure to get the better of any aggressor, however formidable may be his military strength.



Nixon is getting trounced in Viet Nam and Indochina and estranged from the world. To avoid the worst, there is no other alternative left for him than settle the Viet Nam conflict with the Vietnamese and the Indochina problem with the Indochinese. The time when the imperialists could use their strength to bend small nations to their will is gone for good. Outwitted in Viet Nam, Nixon must pull out of it. The Viet Nam issue must be settled by the Vietnamese. Ignoring this legitimate aspiration and continuing to prosecute the war under any form, Nixon will certainly court failure.

With only obsolete flint-locks, we were able to face up to the French colonialists and the Japanese fascists. With almost bare hands, the Saigonese rose up in a direct confrontation with the US aggressors. As we know how to begin a war, we certainly know how to end it. No aggressor country, be it a mighty military and economic power, can shake the determination to fight and to win of a nation with a long-standing glorious tradition. Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom. That truism is deep-rooted in the minds of the Vietnamese people and is the source of their invincible strength.

SOUTH VIET NAM

STATEMENT

of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the RSVN

"SINCE early March 1972, the US imperialists have sent their B.52 strategic bombers to massively bomb many heavily populated areas in Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces and the High Plateaux (South Viet Nam), destroying hamlets, orchards and crop fields and causing considerable damage to the ecology. Hundreds of US aircraft repeatedly bombed and strafed many densely populated areas in Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces and the Vinh Linh area of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, killing or injuring many civilians, mostly children, old folks and women.

The Nixon administration has thus committed heinous crimes against the people in North Viet Nam, grossly violated its own commitment to end totally all bombings and shellings against the DRVN.

This is an extremely serious and barbarous war act of the US imperialists which have brazenly trampled on all international law and insolently challenged public opinion in the world and in the United States as well as those who are urging the Nixon administration to put an end to its brutal war of aggression in South Viet Nam and its encroachments on the DRVN's sovereignty and security.

Along with its systematic sabotage of the Paris Conference on Viet Nam and refusal to seriously respond to the 7-point peace proposal of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam of which the two key points were elaborated in the February 2, 1972 statement, these war acts have further exposed the extremely obdurate, bellicose and aggressive nature and the deceitful allegations of the Nixon administration.

The US government must bear full responsibility for all the consequences arising from its brutal war acts."

Youth of Mining Area Join Up

IN this coalmine area, *Nham Ty* Spring has been a spring "to dig up more coal and co-ordinate efforts with the South to defeat the Yanks." It has also been a spring for the youths to go up the line. Those who depart pledge to wipe out as many enemy troops as possible. Those who stay behind promise to boost up coal production in compliance with Uncle Ho's instructions: "To extract more coal has the same significance as to fight the aggressors."

By the thousands the young men of the mining area have enlisted. For the whole of Quang Ninh province the enrolment target has been attained by 102 per cent or twice as high as in last year's spring. In all the districts and urban centres recruitment norms have been overfulfilled. More youths than required enlisted in the districts of Quang Ha, Mong Cai, Yen Hung, Dong Trieu, the urban centres of Uong Bi, Hon Gai, etc., 2,300 young men of Cam Pha township took part in a manœuvre. After the drill, a mass meeting was held to which the local military command invited all the youths to learn from Hero Le Ma Luong: "The finest life is that of a fighter." All the 2,300 young men volunteered for the army. Many young cadres — among them 14 from Quang Ha district, including two administrative committee chairmen from Dai Dien Nam and Ha Coi Nam — were among them. Elder cadres filled applications for their sons to become armymen: Mme Ho Dzenh, from the Han minority, vice-chairman of the district's administrative committee, had already one of her two sons on the battlefront; now her second son has got her permission to enlist.

The old members of the Association of Soldiers' Mothers also encouraged their boys to go to the front. In a family meeting, Mr Manh told his sons in a moved voice: "You should prove worthy of being a young man. Go and fight the Yanks! If now you don't go, later you won't have any more opportunity even if you want to!" Mr Nguyen Van Be, from Me Xa hamlet, Dong Trieu district, said: "People become soldiers 'generation after generation', but with us it'll be different." His uncommon way of doing things was like this: he wrote an application, had it signed by his wife and all his children, then sent it to the district's Draft Committee with an earnest request to have both him and his son inducted.

The Zao people from Hin Dam hamlet, Kien Moc village, Dinh Lap district, do not resign to be second to any other ethnic minority: many of their youths have come forward for the battlefront. The once nomadic San Diu people from Tan Lap village, who have been settling down to a sedentary life, also have had 17 of their sons in active service.

The day of departure of the mining area youths was a festive day. There was flag-flying, drum-beating and a big crowd. Two hundred mothers whose sons were at the frontline, sporting red roses on their chests, joined the other people of Cam Pha township in a send-off for the lads. 800 other red roses were also offered to the latter's mothers. State trade saleswomen of the township had prepared small parcels including towels with printed flowers, as presents for the departing young men, while the "tailoring enterprise" offered each of them a toilet bag. Send-off ceremonies were also organized by each township quarter and each village.

All along Highway No 18 which runs parallel to Bai Tu Long and Ha Long Bays, convoys after convoys are carrying Quang Ninh youths to the frontline. Only yesterday they were holding pens, hammers, ploughs or oars, but today they are on these trucks crossing other trucks loaded with miners going to work. They wave to each other: the miners hand over to the new recruits small blocks of shining dark coal or scarlet flowers as souvenirs. Two kinds of battlefronts are awaiting the ones and the others: the miners are going to the production front to produce more coal for the Fatherland while the young men are on their way to the anti-Yank battleline where they will fight to protect their coalmine area. Songs rise from the trucks, songs of loyalty to the cause of the nation, echoing in the coalmines and farther in the rustling waves of Bai Tu Long and Ha Long bays.

VU THAI HONG

On their way to the front: Ha Tay (DRVN) *youths*

DRVN in brief

• *The DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee recently held a session under the chairmanship of Truong Chinh. It heard a report by the Chairman of the National Assembly Plan and Budget Committee on this Committee's recommendations on the 1972 State draft plan and budget presented by the Government. The Standing Committee also discussed preparations for the convening of the 2nd session of the 4th National Assembly. A number of problems relating to the jurisdiction of the People's Supreme Court were also considered.*

• *The DRVN Government Council has issued regulations on the procedure of preparing, examining and approving building projects. The regulations have also laid down principles for the management of designing and organization of the work of designing units. Responsibilities of the services concerned have also been defined.*

• *The DRVN Prime Minister's office recently called a conference on the welfare of war invalids and war dead's and armymen's families. The meeting was addressed by Premier Pham Van Dong who insisted that the services at various levels make it their duty to give material and moral cares to the war invalids and war wounded.*

• *The Industry Section of the Institute for Industrial Machine Designing has succeeded in producing a substance, named TH 36-42 and TH 43-41, to be used in welding low carbon steel and low alloys. Through experimentation, it has been found that the use of that substance in the welding of CT3 steel also yields good results.*

It is easy to prepare and preserve and can be produced at low cost.

• *A special course for post-graduates in Han Nom (An old system of phonetic signs of Vietnamese consisting of Chinese ideograms) studies has been opened by the State Board of Social Sciences. Students of the course included cadres who had graduated in Han studies, possessed of a sound knowledge in ancient history and capable of independent research work. They are to become specialists in Han Nom studies.*

• *The Industrial Chemistry Institute has made a successful study and experimentation on the method of processing wasted gases by the Venturi. This method is simple, highly efficient and not costly.*

• *The Pharmaceutical Materials Institute under the Ministry of Health has completed research on the use of the "Sung De" plant, a kind of Strophantus, for treatment of various diseases. An active principle can be extracted from the seeds of this plant to cure heart troubles. The substance is called D. Strophantin which can replace two kinds of heart tonics up to now imported from foreign countries.*

• *The Agricultural College has held a graduation ceremony for 104 students of two disciplines: agricultural mechanization and agricultural electrification. The new graduates have enthusiastically taken up their assignments.*

• *The Quang Binh provincial People's Council has met to review its 1971 work and lay down tasks for 1972. It discussed measures to mobilize all social strata to keep a keen eye on enemy activities: everybody should be combat-ready and help supply the front while speeding up economic restoration and development.*

The Cambodians' Banner of Unity and Victory

TWO years ago, on March 23, that is exactly five days after the US-masterminded coup to turn Cambodia into a US neo-colony, Head of State Samdech Norodom Sihanouk put out a declaration calling his people to stand up against aggression, for national salvation under the banner of the National United Front of Kampuchea (NUFK). This declaration as well as the political program endorsed by the NUFK congress and the formation of the Royal Government of National Union headed by Prime Minister Samdech Penn Nouth, Chairman of the NUFK Political Bureau, and Deputy Prime Minister Khieu Samphon, was prompted by the imperative need and resolve of the Cambodian people to fight for their independence and freedom. Those events were landmarks in their valiant and successful resistance.

Right after its emergence, the NUFK has displayed its ability to rally all of the country's patriotic forces, and, since then, proved to be the architect of all the achievements of the Cambodian people. It has enabled the latter to make a leap forward and taken them to a turning point.

Under the NUFK able leadership, and continuing their people's tradition of resistance to foreign invasion, a people justifiably proud of their splendid Angkor civilization, all social segments — regardless of religion, political leaning, age and sex — have closed their ranks, ready for every sacrifice, to attain the objective put forward by the Front: "Unite the entire people, thwart all plots and acts of aggression of the US imperialists, and overthrow the dictatorial regime of their valets headed by the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique to build an independent, peaceful, neutral, democratic and prosperous Cambodia." This exalted aim has been motivating the Cambodians and instilling an extraordinary strength into their all-out resistance war. The Cambodian people and their liberation armed forces have held in check massive onslaughts by scores of thousands of American GIs and Saigon mercenaries, thus transforming Nixon's wild desire to conquer their country into a nightmare. The "peace oasis" has rapidly become a vast battlefield littered with corpses of US aggressors and US hirelings. Kongpong Cham, Routes 4 and 6, Pich Nil pass, Snuol, the Mekong River have come down in Cambodia's history as scenes of epic feats.

Nixon has boasted that his "doctrine" found a "model" of application in Cambodia. In fact he has been pitting Cambodians against Cambodians and Asians against Asians. He has been pouring in dollars and weapons to make the Phnom Penh army the backbone of a reactionary policy. But how could he stave off the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak regime's eventual collapse when US troops and Saigon and Thai mercenaries have been soundly thrashed and routed? Senator Mike Mansfield pointed out that the Phnom Penh government is useless and impotent, and that with it Cambodia's future is dubious (*AP*, Jan. 1, 1972). Indeed, "the Phnom Penh regime with Lon Nol, Sirik Matak and Son Ngoc Thanh at its head is beset with irreconcilable inner dissensions and heading for a growing crisis" (Joint Viet Nam — Cambodia Declaration, March 3, 1972).

The brilliant successes that the Cambodian people have achieved over the past two years in the military, political and diplomatic fields have been as many slaps in the face of the bragging boss of the White House. They have created facilities for the Cambodians to win complete victory and, together with their Vietnamese and Lao comrades-in-arms, bring an important contribution to foiling US military adventure. They will help them defeat the Nixon doctrine and translate into reality the Declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference. The advances of the Cambodian people set a shining example for the national liberation movement.

Despite all its setbacks the Nixon administration has not renounced its aggressive design. It has instead stepped up the criminal airwar against the Indochinese peoples in a hope to maintain its client regimes as instruments of US neo-colonialism.

From their own experience, the South Vietnamese people firmly believe that under the wise leadership of the National United Front and the Government of National Union, the Cambodian people will tide over all difficulties, bring their fight to complete triumph, and, together with the Vietnamese and Lao, drive the US imperialists out of Indochina.

Cambodia

NLAF Devastating Attacks in February

FEBRUARY was marked by fierce attacks mounted by the Cambodian people and army on Highway 7, around Kompong Thom city and especially for the defence of the Angkor Temples.

On Highway 7, between Skoun an Troeung, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces overran a series of post and beat off all the enemy raids. Between January 31 and February 8, hundreds of adverse men were put out of action on that battlefield, and those digging in in Taing Kauk and Kompong Thom city found themselves under NLAF strong pressure and repeated offensives. A remarkable gain recorded in February by the Cambodian people and patriotic forces was shown not only in their foilings of the enemy subversive and espionage activities inside the sector of Angkor Temples but also in their repelling of all adverse attacking prongs launched since late last January in a "clear and destroy" operation and their inflicting 300 adverse casualties in 4 days ending February 2.

Between February 12 and 20, the NLAF in Kompong Cham also assaulted several enemy positions and defeated many of their mopping-up and looting operations, killing or wounding 100 of them.

On February 21, such positions as Rokar Kamreng, Puk Yuk, Pramat Dai, Pan Khav, Panhachi and Prey Tahau, South and North of Kompong Thom city came under simultaneous onsets. The patriotic forces put out of combat more than 700 adverse troops, captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition, levelled the important Rokar Kamreng and Pramat Dei positions, 6 miles from the city, and others on the 1st defense line in La Et Phum Kor and along the Au Kriem canal. On the night of February 24, the Panhachi position was assailed and completely isolated from Kompong Thom.

On the following days, the NLAF continued to encircle and shell other posts, and were responsible for a big number of enemy casualties. At present, in Kompong Thom there is a serious shortage of provisions and ammunition and the urge to desert is spreading among the Phnom Penh troops.

Heavy fighting is raging on the Kompong Thom battlefield and is likely to last until and the defenders are swept out of the city.

For their part, the regional forces and guerillas were also credited with several exploits by intercepting convoys of adverse boats on the Mekong river, ambushing raiding troops or attacking posts erected along the lines of communication.

The enemy situation in February thus went from bad to worse. In anticipation of a possible new coup d'etat, Phnom Penh general Fernandez ordered 100 per cent of his men off the streets. Rumour had it that American "governor" Emery Swank would change henchmen.

There is every indication that the Cambodian people and NLAF will push up their resistance to greater successes in the months to come.

Combat-ready Lao PLAF ack team

Laos

PLA VIOLENT ATTACKS AT SAM THONG AND BAN LAO NGAM

IN a well co-ordinated action, the Lao patriotic forces on March 11 launched a powerful ground and artillery attack on 4 Thai battalions and one Vang Pao "Special forces" battalion in Sam Thong region, Xieng Khoang province, according to *KPL*.

Initial reports said that the LPLA killed, wounded or captured more than 600 enemy, shot down 5 war planes, and seized or destroyed a large quantity of military equipment including 7 cannon and mortars. The remaining enemy troops fled in disorder to the South and Southwest.

The same day, the Lao patriots shelled enemy artillery sites, storage complexes and airfields in the central part of Long Cheng and its southern edge. The storage area at Long Cheng burst into flame and the fire lasted throughout March 11 till the afternoon of the following day. One war plane was wrecked and the Long Cheng airport was completely put out of commission.

Elsewhere, the Lao patriotic forces launched a two-pronged attack on the night of March 7 and overran several positions of US-fostered Lao troops East and Northeast of Pakse in Southern Laos.

According to *UPI*, the Vientiane military spokesman admitted that the forward positions along Route 23, and the key defence base of Ban Lao Ngam, known as junction 231, about 17 miles East of Pakse, fell to the assaulting patriotic forces.

The Lao liberation armed forces on the Bolovens Plateau on March 6 shot down one US T.28 plane over Ban Nhik region in Southern Laos, according to *KPL*. This brought the total number of US war planes destroyed and shot down in Laos to 2,309.

Nixon at the Bar in Versailles

1972 began with an event of major importance in international political life: the highly successful World Assembly for Peace and Independence in Indochina held at Versailles, France, from the 11th to the 13th of February.

It was attended by 1,200 delegates from 84 countries and 32 international and regional organizations. It is safe to say that it was the biggest ever of the kind in terms of the number of foreign delegates and organizations represented, the size of the gathering and the topics debated. The American delegation consisted of 149 representatives of 64 organizations from different states. It included churchmen, businessmen, artistes of international fame, intellectuals, Viet Nam war veterans, members of families of US militarymen captured in Viet Nam, representatives of women's, student and youth organizations and trade-unions of Black, Red and other minority Americans. The presence of participants of the US movement against the Viet Nam war, struck a highly militant note. The Italian, British, Japanese, West German and USSR delegations with respectively 64, 51, 46, 44 and 26 members were among the largest and most representative ones. Ministers, members of Parliament, scientists, lawyers, writers and political and social figures of many countries also attended. For the first time, 48 French organizations with quite divergent political tendencies merged in one and the same delegation.

Meeting in a close vicinity of Paris, the Versailles Assembly aroused wide repercussions around the world. Moreover, as the US President had just made public his "8-point peace proposal," and the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government its elaboration on two of its 7-point peace initiative, the delegates had topics of burning interest on which to concentrate their discussions, flay Nixon's hypocrisy and back the PRG peace proposal. Alarmed by the magnitude and impact of the assembly which Washington had unsuccessfully pressured the French government to send to another place, the American chief delegate to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam William Porter insolently called the participants "trouble fomenters paid by the Communists" and "hired cheer leaders." His offensive words stirred up utter indignation among the American delegation and the whole assembly. The American delegation decided to lodge a protest and representatives were deputized to see and question Porter. Speaking at the convention, famous US actress Jane Fonda said that if US ambassadors were to be appointed according to the American people's will, Porter should be withdrawn from Paris since he did not stand for their interest which was to stop the bloodshed in Indochina.

A delegation including reputed ministers, MPs and political and social figures of several countries handed a written declaration to the US Embassy. "We want to remind Ambassador Porter," the declaration said among things, "that we came to Paris unarmed, with peace objectives while Washington sent to the Gulf of Tonkin another aircraft carrier and B-52 squadron to widen the war against the Indochinese peoples."

The atmosphere, already ebullient since the outset, warmed up throughout three days of sitting.

The report by Mr Dang Quang Minh, member of the NFL Central Committee and chief delegate of the PRG, was given a tremendous ovation. The speaker revealed Nixon's duplicity and obstinacy in his "Vietnamization" and "pacification" plan, and expounded the PRG fair and sensible 7 points, as well as the 2 points elucidated on last February 2. He also voiced the South Vietnamese people's deep gratitude to the considerable and valuable support of the world's peoples, the Americans included. The entire audience stood up in a long, stormy applause, many with tears in their eyes when the Indochinese and American representatives hugged one another.

The DRVN delegation was led by Mr Hoang Quoc Viet, member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, member of the Viet Nam Fatherland Front Central Committee and President of the Viet Nam Confederation of Labour; that of Laos by General Singkapo, member of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee; and that of Cambodia by Mr Thioun Prasith, Minister of Co-ordination of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia. All the Indochinese chief delegates made clear the determination of their peoples to carry on their fight until final victory so long as the White House rulers do not abandon their aggressive intention.

Attention arresting was the presence of delegates from Vietnamese nationals' organizations in France such as the Overseas Buddhists' Association, the Free Forces' Movement, the 'Turn toward Viet Nam' Movement, the 'Vietnamese Catholics in Service of the Nation' Movement, and the Union of Vietnamese Nationals in France. On behalf of these organizations, Reverend Thich Thien Chau read a resolution backing the PRG 7-point peace proposal and demanding that the US end its aggression, withdraw all its troops and cease supporting Nguyen Van Thieu. This was another proof of the growth of the South Vietnamese people's drive against the US aggressors and the quisling Saigon administration.

Taking the floor, Mr Sydney Peck of the US delegation said that Nixon's "peace plan" could not deceive anybody, that the answer of the American people to it would be to step up opposition to his war policy. After the common victory, Mr Peck added, friendship between the Indochinese and American peoples will find a new expression in the respects of the right to self-determination of all peoples, without intervention and aggression by foreign countries.

After the first plenary session, the delegates met in four committees: the Political Committee, the Action Committee, the Committee on the New Aspects of War, and the Committee on the Economic Problems of the Indochina War. Concrete data presented during the discussions in each committee laid bare the true colours of the US warmongers and called for vigilance and resistance against them.

The RSVN delegation made an active contribution to the work of the four committees, especially the Committee on the New Aspects of War in which its report on "pacification" pointed out that this was a crime against the fundamental national rights and right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, and that it led to genocide, biocide and ecocide. Many American and other delegates laid emphasis on the "mechanized, automated and electronic war" in Indochina where to kill men machines are used in lieu of American troops among whom more and more have grown aware and critical of US odious aggression. A.L. Hubbard, a war veteran back from Viet Nam, scored the dark design of the White House and the Pentagon to use robots because these blindly obey, never waver, demand repatriation, desert nor mount anti-war drives and throw their medals into Nixon's face.

In the economic committee the reports submitted pointed to the grabbing of Indochina's resources and exploitation of its people by US imperialism, as well as the impact of the Viet Nam war on the economy, finance and life of the people of the United States.

At the final session on February 13, the Assembly unanimously passed an appeal and a political resolution.

NGUYEN DUC VAN

RSVN Deputy-Chief Delegate to the Versailles Assembly

Demonstration in West Germany: An end to the US war in Viet Nam

in brief

- *A Soviet-Bengla Desh joint statement made public in Moscow on March 4, 1972 read: "Both sides are deeply convinced that the RSVN PRG seven points provide a realistic and constructive basis for a peaceful political solution to the Viet Nam problem."*

- *Multifarous actions, including parades, rallies, teach-ins, exhibitions, film-shows, were staged by women from the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Cuba, France, Japan, Chile, Peru, Sweden, Norway, Finland... on the occasion of March 8, to express solidarity with the Vietnamese women's and people's anti-US resistance. In Czechoslovakia, many women's delgations called at the RSVN Embassy to hand in clothes, school materials and medical instruments that had been collected for Vietnamese children.*

- *The Foreign Ministries of the PR of China, PDR of Korea, Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia, the Foreign Minister of France, the acting Foreign Minister of the GDR, the Deputy Foreign Minister of the PR of Hungary, the Permanent Secretariat of OSPAAAL, the British Committee for Peace in Viet Nam, and public opinion in Czechoslovakia, Iraq, Sweden, Norway, have scored. US stepped-up air raids against the DRVN since early March 1972, as "blatant provocations against the world's peace-loving people." Those savage air bombings, they said, have laid bare the hypocritical peace proposals of Nixon and his dark designs."*

- *The Korea - Iraq and Korea - Somalia joint communiqués have pledged solidarity with, and support for, the three Indochinese peoples' resistances against US aggression. The communiqués condemned US schemes and methods of armed aggression in Indochina, demanded that the US put an end to its aggression in, and withdraw all American and satellite troops from, Viet Nam and let the Indochinese peoples settle their own affairs without foreign interference.*

- *In an interview with the visiting delegation of the South Viet Nam Asian-African Solidarity Committee on March 5, Iraqi President A.H. Al Bakr said: "The Iraqi Government and people resolutely support the South Vietnamese people's resistance to US aggression for national salvation, fully approve the 7-point proposal and February 2 statement of the RSVN PRG, and urge the total pullout of US aggressors and satellite troops from South Viet Nam..."*

  On behalf of the Iraqi Government and people, President A.H. Al Bakr contributes 20,000 to the South Vietnamese people's resistance fund.